

The Intelligencer.

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 24, 1852.

WHEELING, WEST VA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 2, 1878.

VOLUME XXVI—NUMBER 112

The Intelligencer.

Talk With a Drummer.

We had a conversation with one of our Wheeling drummers last evening who is just in "off the road," and he tells us that things are not looking as bright and attractive within the domain of country travel by Wheeling drummers as he has seen it. Collections are slow, and in some cases, difficult and apparently, there is more of a disposition to settle by note than formerly. Goods are being sold very close—probably never more so—and notwithstanding the good crops of the last season, the farmers are still largely in debt to the country merchants, and still running their credit with them. He thinks that it is a good time to go slow in the way of pressing goods on the country trade, (goods in store are at least as desirable as close sales and difficult and dangerous collections.)

As to the reason why this state of things prevails, our friend says that over in Ohio the tobacco crop is still unmarketable, and out along the B. & O. road the trade are suffering from the almost total suspension of the "Black" business, and also from the depression in coal around Cumberland and Froberg. He tells us of one country merchant in one of the best agricultural counties of West Virginia, who has \$15,000 standing out among the farmers, and who is obliged to indulge them, inasmuch as they are, generally speaking, all solvent, and profits are very satisfactory on the goods sold to them.

Speaking of profits he says that there is a wide margin between the prices at which goods are retained in the country and in this city. For instance, at some places in the country, dealers will sell three bars of soap for a quarter, out of a box bought at \$2.75, whereas retailers here give six bars for the same money. This is only a specimen, he says, of the difference in the margin of profit expected in the country as compared with that obtained in the city. But for identifying our friend too closely, we could give one or two other specimens of prices quoted to us as illustrative of this wide difference. He justifies the country merchants on the ground that their sales are limited and their payments delayed. We asked him why more of them did not follow the example of a well known merchant out at Lagrange, Mr. W. H. Rogers, who has acquired the reputation of selling goods cheap, and in consequence, commands a trade covering an unusually wide scope of country on both sides of the river. He replied that Mr. Rogers was a very unusual merchant. Besides being an expert in his business, and thoroughly posted in prices, he had made it a practice to attend forced sales of goods in the cities, as for instance in Pittsburgh, and had secured many extraordinary bargains, which he had distributed very liberally among his customers. It took capital, experience and energy to carry on business in that way, and it wasn't every country merchant, by considerable, who had these advantages, especially the first named. Not a few country merchants do business on a very small capital, and have but a limited experience, and inasmuch as they buy only in small quantities they cannot compete with a retailer in this city who has capital, long experience, and sells most of his goods for cash or on short credit.

These observations of our friend, the drummer, remind us of an incident lately referred to in our columns, of a gentleman who came to the city from one of the surrounding towns to buy a pair of winter boots, and who in the course of a short call at this office remarked that he had saved more than enough in the price to pay the expenses of his trip. If we remember correctly, he claimed to have saved over three dollars, which was certainly a heavy percent on a small investment.

The fact is that trade is over done. There are too many merchants in the country. They all sell a little—some of them very little—and they must needs get a price that will cover not only the expenses of living, but also of waiting for their pay. While the merchants in the larger towns and cities look to the "nimble six-pence" for their profit, those in the country look to the slow coming shilling. Farmers are content to pay this bonus for the sake of credit. And they ought to pay it when they consume so much of it in non-interest bearing delay. The principle, however, is radically wrong, and belongs to the whole system of over-production, over-selling, and long winded credits, which have had so much to do with the panic and depression in trade.

Big Time at Richmond.
According to a dispatch in another column, the new Governor of Virginia was inaugurated yesterday amid much ceremony. It seems that he reached Richmond on Monday in a special train. We are informed that he "came on a train of four place cars." This train contained himself and the Lieutenant Governor, and also a committee. There came another special train—eight minutes behind the gubernatorial train—numbering fifteen coaches, the first being filled with military from Harrisonburg, Winchester and Staunton.

"The next four were filled with the flower and chivalry of the Valley, and the remainder contained the yeomanry of the Valley. Among the upper-tens were many ladies. The visitors were met at the depot by a great concourse of citizens, besides the first Virginia Brigade, of this city, General B. L. Johnson commanding. On the platform of the Governor's car Judge Lay, who seems to have gotten up the demonstration, assisted by Ben August and General B. L. Johnson, made a welcome address. Halliday responded in an eloquent and short speech, and the applause from the multitude being immense. Following Halliday, the Lieutenant Governor made an earnest two-minute speech in fine style, which also made the throng about with joy. Thus the speeches were ended, and the business of the day commenced.

Halliday, who, by the way, is a handsome man of fifty, with classic face, was seated in a carriage, the finest in town, drawn by six gray horses, each horse supporting a gay plume. Seated with him were Judge Lay and Lindsay Walker. In the second hack came the Lieutenant Governor, surrounded by three City Councilmen. Then followed other hacks containing the big guns, such as Mayors of lower City. Far and near, thousands of members of commercial exchanges and rich private citizens. The line of procession was from the C. & O. Railroad Depot, up Broad street to Fourteenth; Fourteenth to Franklin; thence to the Exchange Hotel. The military opened out, and the procession moved on to the hotel, where he immediately went to his headquarters. It was now dark.

All along the line of march the subjects on the sidewalks shouted in a voice of joy and never have we seen a more enthusiastic and cheering multitude. The air has been resonant from dark till midnight with brass band music, as the visiting military companies were moving to and fro. A grand banquet is being given at Zetzel's cafe. It is a great success.

All this looks like a departure from the severe simplicity that characterized the inauguration of Virginia Governors before the war. But it is not so much of a departure as it might suppose. According to a correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer, from which we quote, things are much more unpretentious now than they used to be at Richmond.

Before the war the State kept up a standing army, as it were, the famous State Guard of one hundred men being stationed in the barracks in sight of the gubernatorial mansion. Then a full dress band, and other big men, every evening in the gubernatorial yard, and a sentinel in red coat and blue breeches paced before the gubernatorial gate, and peacock grenadiers perambulated generally through the Capitol Square. Why, then, should this objection be made by Rogers and other big men to Halliday's pomp? They must remember that the Virginians will be true to the traditions of the past in their love for vice-regal doings; besides it must be remembered that this is the first time that the Valley has ever had a Governor. From tide-water, or from the mountains to the seaboard was ancient Virginia, and we may term that the first estate. Between the mountains and down the Valley lies the second estate. What is now West Virginia was the third estate. She was the ragged, and hobbled, and never thought of trying to produce a Governor, but the Valley, as a second estate, was always ambitious, and has made several attempts to get in a man, and now that they have triumphed the Valley people are determined to do the thing up in style.

PHILADELPHIA.

A Resume of the Coal, Iron, Oil, and Railroad Interests for the Year Just Closed—A Glimpse at a Favorable Showing.

PHILADELPHIA, December 31.—In its review of the year, the North American says that Pennsylvania has mined more coal than ever before, and has sold it at prices below those which any one ever expected to see reached, and yet it has not been an unmixed evil. It has given the cheap coal which has kept the mills going all over the country, and has enabled us to reach markets hitherto controlled by the bituminous interest. Millions of tons have been mined at a loss, but the capital was invested, the brakes built, the tracks laid, and the cars idle. There was no money to be made in working, but there was less to be lost than by standing idle. The wear and tear of rolling stock would be quite as great as if it were kept in motion, and the pumps had to be worked, whether a ton of coal was to be taken out or not. Unfortunately, the new year opens with hope of some decided action which will prevent more coal being mined than the country needs.

The iron interest has been more fortunate. It has made very little money, but it has lost little as the demand was very light, and the first half of the year brought debts which required the sale of stock, often without much profit, but seldom at a net loss. Now the increase in the railroad traffic, coupled with low prices has induced heavy purchases of steel rails, and furnaces are going into blast all over the State. A large order for Brazil has added impetus to the trade, and has further stimulated the export of iron and steel manufactures, until they already show a remarkable increase over the work of midsummer. The demand is not quite as heavy as ever known. Not only in bridge and railroad building have we made great advances, but the ship building on the Delaware has shown wonderful activity. Never before were so many men employed, and the amount of tonnage now in process of building has not been exceeded more than once or twice before, if at all.

The oil trade has suffered from over-production. The very richness of our resources has proved injurious just at present. New wells are sinking daily, and, even nine until half past ten o'clock, the time was spent in social chat. Never within the history, perhaps, of the White House was a more agreeable company assembled within its walls. It was a reunion of old friends—those that can be relied upon to stand by a friend in need. Each was decorated with medals, and the ladies of the Marine Band, which was stationed in the vestibule leading to the East Room, played a series of lively wedding marches.

There were but few presents among the most conspicuous was a silver jug, given by the President to the members of the Twenty-third Ohio Regiment. Among the guests were all the survivors of those who were present at the marriage, in Cincinnati, December 30, 1852. The lawyers who practiced in Cincinnati between 1850 and 1860, when time the President was in practice there, were also invited, but few of them were present. Chief Justice Waite and Associate Justice Swayne are among those who were then noted lawyers in Ohio. They were present this evening, with their families, and the Vice President, Mrs. John W. Herron and Dr. and Mrs. John Davis, of Cincinnati. The two gentlemen attended the wedding twenty years ago, as also did the President's Secretary, Mr. Rogers. Mrs. Wilbur, who was the principal of the Seminary at which Mrs. Hayes graduated, was an honored guest. Colonel L. C. Weir, of Cincinnati, and Mr. and Mrs. George Desha, of Columbus, were among the guests.

Mrs. Hayes wore a becoming dress of white satin. It was made of the dress which she wore on her wedding night, its ample fold having been folded up and preserved as a relic of its early life. The guests enjoyed a banquet in the State Dining-room. The menu comprised all the reasonable and delicate solids of the season, but the liquids were confined to tea, coffee, lemonade and ice-water.

COMMERCE AT CHICAGO.

A Review of the Year—An Increased Quantity of Produce Handled, But a Falling Off in Values.
CHICAGO, December 31.—The Tribune's review of the business of Chicago during 1877 shows the following interesting figures: The aggregate of value of the wholesale trade amount to \$651,500,000, as against \$655,400,000 in 1876, or comparing the year dollar for dollar, a decrease of \$3,900,000, or 0.6 per cent. In 1877 we have an aggregate of value in 1877 of \$651,500,000, against \$655,400,000 in 1876, and this with an almost stand still of the trade with the interior during a large part of the last six weeks. There is a decline in the aggregate amount of breadstuffs received in this city during the year as compared with last year. The decline in the number of bushels, reducing flour to wheat, is 3,129,560 bushels, the receipts in 1877 amounting to 4,906,916 bushels, against 7,936,476 bushels in 1876.

The decline in value of the receipts of produce is largely due to the falling off in the number and the price of hogs, for which the extraordinary weather of December is largely responsible. In 1877 we received 4,320,149 bushels of wheat, and the mud and the warm weather of December, we received, in 1877, no less than 4,178,792 bushels, a falling off of only 141,357. But the prices were so much lower than those of 1876 that the difference in the total value of the hogs, and wheat sold does not come up to great in dollars as a year ago. The average decline in value was 47 per cent. on the grand total as measured by currency. Amid the general depression which prevails, this comparative exhibit of Chicago's trade for the year will hardly be equalled by the record of any other district in the country.

The tables of statistics disclose that during the year just closed, Chicago has handled about the same quantity of produce as in 1876, sold from 8 to 10 per cent. more merchandise at wholesale, and manufactured at least 5 per cent. more goods. Notwithstanding this, under the circumstances a liberal increase, the value of all these commodities produced and sold does not come up to great in dollars as a year ago. The average decline in value was 47 per cent. on the grand total as measured by currency. Amid the general depression which prevails, this comparative exhibit of Chicago's trade for the year will hardly be equalled by the record of any other district in the country.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ANEXATION SCHEME GAINING FAVOR—A Defiant Attitude to be Assumed on the Frontier.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, December 31.—Colonel Shafter, in command of Fort Clark, on the border, passed through this place north to Washington to appear before the Military Committee. He is accompanied by Lieutenant Bullis and wife. At the Lerdo case seems dead, and matters at El Paso quiet again, Mexican affairs have suddenly assumed an aspect more interesting than of late. The movement is undoubtedly gaining ground in Mexico for annexation and consolidation with the Central American States under one Government to resist apprehended aggression of the United States. Much curiosity exists in regard to the new Mexican War Secretary, General Manuel Gonzalez, and the Cabinet of Diaz. It is thought from the record of General Gonzalez that the military under General Terrell, Consul General, and the frontiers, will assume a defiant attitude.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS NEW MEN RESIDE IN CHARLOTTE.

Courier.
There are residing in Charlotte four gentlemen who were members of the Virginia House of Delegates at the session of 1849-50, which commenced in Richmond, but adjourned to the Fauquier. While at Sulphur Springs, where their legislative labors terminated about the 1st of September, 1849. They are John S. Burdett, who represented the county of Taylor; James H. Ferguson, who represented the counties of Logan and Boone; Benjamin W. Byrne, who represented the counties of Braxton and Lewis; and James M. Laidley, who represented the county of Kanawha. We venture the assertion that there cannot be found within the borders of any country, either in the Old Dominion or in West Virginia, more than half as many gentlemen who were members of that body, Ohio county had but one delegate. The city of Richmond had but one.

THE SILVER WEDDING OF PRESIDENT AND MRS. HAYES NEW YEAR'S EVE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 31.—On December 30, 1852, at No. 141 Sixth street, in Cincinnati, Ruthven R. Hayes and Lucy Ware Webb were united in marriage by Professor L. D. McCabe, of the Ohio Wesleyan University. To-night the interesting event of twenty-five years ago was appropriately celebrated at the White House. Nature gave to the occasion all the agreeable accessories of twinkling silver stars, the silver moon, and had the Silver Bill passed both Houses prior to the holiday recess, and received the attesting signature of the President, the occasion would have been indeed complete.

When the President and Mrs. Hayes came to celebrate the silver stars, the silver moon, and the Silver Bill, in the century of married life, it was the desire of the excellent mistress of the White House that it should be without showy ostentation. It was the desire of both, too, that so near as they could make it, the anniversary should recall to the scene of the most notable incident in the life of both. Accordingly, all those living who were then present, in addition to near personal friends of the family, were invited. The invitations were limited to about one hundred. They are written on note paper and read:

"Mrs. Hayes and I celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of our wedding December 31, 1852, at nine o'clock."

This much was written by one of the President's Secretaries, and afterwards the President personally addressed each invitation at noon. "I hope you will be present. Sincerely yours,"

Long before the hour of nine every room in the Executive Mansion was in a blaze of light. The Red, Blue, Green and East Rooms were thrown open for the guests. Each was decorated with similar, quite as heavy as ever known. Not only in bridge and railroad building have we made great advances, but the ship building on the Delaware has shown wonderful activity. Never before were so many men employed, and the amount of tonnage now in process of building has not been exceeded more than once or twice before, if at all.

The oil trade has suffered from over-production. The very richness of our resources has proved injurious just at present. New wells are sinking daily, and, even nine until half past ten o'clock, the time was spent in social chat. Never within the history, perhaps, of the White House was a more agreeable company assembled within its walls. It was a reunion of old friends—those that can be relied upon to stand by a friend in need. Each was decorated with medals, and the ladies of the Marine Band, which was stationed in the vestibule leading to the East Room, played a series of lively wedding marches.

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MOVEMENTS OF GENERAL GRANT—Gambetta in Rome—The Pope Distributing Cardinal Hats—English College Banquet.

LONDON, January 1.—The United States steamer Vandalla, with General Grant and family on board, sailed from Malta for Alexandria, and a salute was fired from the forts as the Vandalla left the port.

GAMBETTA.
The Herald's correspondent at Rome telegraphs that Gambetta had an interview with the Deputies on Sunday, and will probably be accorded an audience by King Victor Emmanuel.

THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

ALBANY, January 1.—The Legislature organized today. William H. Robertson was chosen President of the Senate, and G. W. Husted Speaker of the House. The Governor's message to the State debt on September 30, 1877, after applying the sinking fund, to be \$7,706,683; actual reduction of the debt during the year by cancellation \$12,358,843. The bounty debt has been finally extinguished. In regard to the unemployed labor, the Governor says there can be but one permanent and effectual remedy, and that is to return as speedily as possible to the condition of things existing before the road to ruin was entered on by means of a return to specie payments, a sound and stable currency, and the reduction of the tariff to a strictly revenue standard. The Legislature is urged to take strict action of the Life Insurance companies and Savings banks, and hold them to exact accountability. The Governor favors the resumption of specie payments January 1, 1878. Upon this subject, I trust that there will be wisdom enough at Washington to avoid hindering our present hopeful progress towards specie payments, and that the laws of the general government and those of our own State on this subject will continue to be as they now are in harmony.

THE OLD BIRD'S HEAD BANK.

NEW YORK, January 1.—The directors of the Old Bird's Head Bank have decided to refuse deposits and begin to close up its business. The bank has been in some straits ever since the disastrous default of March, 73, by which it lost between \$400,000 and \$500,000. Depositors will be paid in full. The loss, if any, falls on the stockholders. The capital is said to be impaired \$50,000.

THE ENGLISH COLLEGE BANQUET.

was given on Sunday at the English College in Rome. The guests included Cardinals Manning and Howard, and the Superiors of the English, Irish, Scotch and American Colleges.

FAILURES IN NEW YORK IN DECEMBER.

NEW YORK, December 31.—There were eighty-nine failures reported in this city during the month of December, together with eleven assignments, of which the assets and liabilities could not be obtained. This is the largest number of failures that has occurred in any month of the year, and the aggregate amount of the failures is \$1,000,000. The failures in round numbers, far exceed any previous month. This is an increase of about 25 per cent. over the record for November in the number of failures, and the gross liabilities are about three times the amount for that month.

BY TELEGRAPH.

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

TO THE DAILY INTELLIGENCER.

GENERAL NEWS.

English Journals on England's Duty in the War Crisis.

THE WAR SPIRIT INCREASING.

The Turks Fortifying the Balkan Passes.

A GREAT BATTLE IMMINENT.

Winter Brings No Cessation of Hostilities.

The New Year's Reception at the White House.

A Brilliant Array of Distinguished Guests.

Inauguration of Governor Halliday of Virginia.

Revival of Old Time Ceremonies on the Occasion.

The Governor Urges Good Faith on the Part of the State Towards Her Creditors.

New Year's Reception at the White House.

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 1.—The New Year's reception at the White House was held in the blue parlor, after which callers passed through into the east room where the promenade and exchanges of compliments of the season were indulged in.

The President and Mrs. Hayes were assisted in the ceremonies of the day by Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Platt, Mrs. Breckenridge, Judge Force, Miss Foote, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Heron. The Marine band was stationed in the ante chamber, and as the foreign ambassadors in full costume with the ladies of their respective households, and the Cabinet officers with their wives entered the wide hall, strains of enlivening music filled the air. Prominently noted in the diplomatist throng were Sir Edward Thornton and Lady Thornton, the Japanese ambassador and wife, the German, Russian and Turkish Ministers, and many other well known attaches of the Diplomatic Corps. The officers of the army, navy and marine corps appeared in full uniform. The Supreme Court, Senate and House of Representatives, and the members of the Court of Claims and of the District Courts, members of prominent civic associations, members of the different Executive Departments, the associated soldiers of the war of 1812, the associated veterans of 1845, the members of the oldest inhabitants' association and a delegation of the Grand Army of the Republic were all represented and paid respects in accordance with the official schedule. At 1 o'clock the general public was admitted, and an hour afterwards the last caller had taken his departure. The President and the first official levee of President Hayes was over. The members of the Cabinet, with their families, received callers from 1 till 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The members of the diplomatic corps called upon Mr. Hayes after his departure from the Executive Mansion.

Inauguration of the New Governor of Virginia Yesterday.

RICHMOND, January 1.—For the first time in the history of Virginia since Colonial times its Governor, Colonel W. M. Halliday, was inaugurated to-day with all the pomp and display of a grand public demonstration. The Governor in his inaugural address takes the strongest grounds for the maintenance of the State credit, making the points that the debt was created to promote the improvement which the State now possesses, and from which it daily derives profit; that the Governor's message should direct its utmost efforts to the question of how to pay it, and denounces the course of those who seem to strive how not to pay. The address declares that Virginia cannot escape her liabilities, which all men are bound to acknowledge. On Sunday the Governor's message to the State debt on September 30, 1877, after applying the sinking fund, to be \$7,706,683; actual reduction of the debt during the year by cancellation \$12,358,843. The bounty debt has been finally extinguished. In regard to the unemployed labor, the Governor says there can be but one permanent and effectual remedy, and that is to return as speedily as possible to the condition of things existing before the road to ruin was entered on by means of a return to specie payments, a sound and stable currency, and the reduction of the tariff to a strictly revenue standard. The Legislature is urged to take strict action of the Life Insurance companies and Savings banks, and hold them to exact accountability. The Governor favors the resumption of specie payments January 1, 1878. Upon this subject, I trust that there will be wisdom enough at Washington to avoid hindering our present hopeful progress towards specie payments, and that the laws of the general government and those of our own State on this subject will continue to be as they now are in harmony.

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